Organisation of countries producing tea, rubber etc.

†618. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and some other Asian countries dominate production of rubber, tea and some other crops;

(b) whether Government propose to form an organisation with the Asian countries in line with the oil producing countries for the production and pricing of these crops;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) India and some other Asian countries contribute substantially in the global production of natural rubber, tea and some other crops.

(b) to (d) India is already a member of various international organisations set up for bringing together major producing and consuming countries of natural rubber, tea and other crops for the purpose of exchanging views and debating on policy issues including production and pricing of these commodities.

Crisis in plantation sector

619. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plantation sector is facing crisis;

(b) whether Government have initiated any measures to revive this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to ban import of plantation products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The plantation crops, mainly tea and coffee, have been affected due to the fall in prices during the last few years.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.